

REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to cancel claims 1-6, 8 and 10 without prejudice or disclaimer and to add new claims 11-21. The claims are supported by the original disclosure and no new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

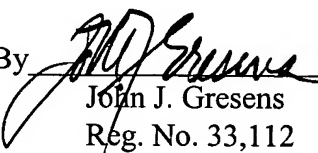
If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, John J. Gresens (Reg. No. 33,112), at (612) 371.5265.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903  
(612) 332-5300

Dated: October 23, 2002

By

  
John J. Gresens  
Reg. No. 33,112

JJG/jh